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# RiverClan

Leader **Calmstar-** Cream-colored tom with blue eyes

Deputy **Mothwhisper-** Brown she-cat with freckles near her eyes and amber eyes

Medicine Cat **Goldenflow-** Orange she-cat with deep blue eyes

**Apprentice, Rushingpaw** (Blue-grey tom with brown stripes and yellow eyes)

Warriors

**Seabreeze-** Beautiful tortoiseshell she-cat with green eyes

**Fishpelt-** Brown long-haired tom with amber eyes **Apprentice, Duskpaw Mate, Yellowtail (Father of Toothpaw)**

**Sunfur-** Golden tabby tom with brown eyes **Mate, Sweetpelt**

**Waterfoot-** Blue-grey tom with green eyes

**Aquastorm-** White she-cat with black stripes on her face and blue eyes **Apprentice, Dawnpaw**

**Thornwillow-** Very pale she-cat with amber eyes

**Redwhisker-** Reddish-colored tom with pale blue eyes **Apprentice, Toothpaw Mate, Willowfur (Father of Duskpaw and Dawnpaw)**

**Saptail-** Orange-colored she-cat with brown eyes

**Firepool-** Ginger tom with amber eyes

Apprentices

**Rushingpaw-** Blue-grey tom with brown stripes and yellow eyes

**Duskpaw-** Reddish tabby tom with green eyes (Brother of

Dawnpaw)

**Dawnpaw-** Ginger and brown spotted she-cat with blue eyes (Sister of Duskpaw)

**Toothpaw-** Grey long-haired tabby tom with amber eyes

Queens

**Yellowtail-** Grey she-cat with yellow eyes **(Mother of Toothpaw and Rushingpaw)**

**Willowfur-** Brown she-cat with green eyes **(Mother of Duskpaw and Dawnpaw)**

**Sweetpelt-** Cream-colored she-cat with brown eyes **(Expecting kitting soon)**

Elders

**Sunpelt-** Orange tom with yellow eyes

**Mosswhisker-** Dark brown she-cat with green eyes

# 🤍Prologue🤍

The flames rose so high that they could touch StarClan themselves. While warriors rushed and grabbed elders and kits, an orange-colored she-cat stood behind a dirt barrier. She was in charge of healing injuries and helping cats breathe. Goldenflow shuttered: she could feel the heat from there. She narrowed her eyes, trying to spot her sister, Silvershore. To her dismay, the silver-grey she-cat was nowhere to be found. Her eyes widened when she saw RiverClan's leader, Calmstar, coughing badly while barely standing. His deputy, Mothwhisper, was staring helplessly at him. The she-cat shot Goldenflow a grateful glance as she rushed over to the leader. Goldenflow was desperate to save him. After all, he only had one life left. Goldenflow's eyes narrowed as she saw that he had inhaled a lot of smoke. "Don't save me, StarClan is ready to take me," Calmstar rasped. "But-" Calmstar shook his head. "I know that you're a medicine cat. But StarClan has made it clear. My leadership has been well. May Mothwhisper lead our Clan into greatness. It is time for me to go." His breathing stopped. Goldenflow hung her head in sadness. *Mothwhisper will make a good leader.* "Is everyone evacuated?" the deputy shouted, breaking Goldenflow's thoughts. "I think so!" came Aquastorm's voice from afar. She was one of the cats that were ordered to evacuate the remaining cats. Goldenflow looked around for her sister. Alarm shot through her when Silvershore was not among the evacuated cats. "Wait! Where's my sister???" she shouted. Suddenly, a silver-colored paw reached up from a pile of rocks that had collapsed. "H-help m-me..." a barely audible voice cried. It was Silvershore. Mothwhisper immediately raced towards her. But before she could reach Silvershore, the flames got to her first. Cats were frozen with horror as an agonizing wail came from beneath the fire. Tears shed down Goldenflow's face as she realized that her sister was dead. Burned alive. And she never got to say goodbye.

# 🤍Chapter 1🤍

Goldenflow was sorting herbs when she first heard the commotion. "What's happening?" she inquired as she patted out of her den, letting the dawn sunlight wash over her, turning her pelt golden. She saw Redwhisker and Saptail carrying Firepool's limp body. She narrowed her eyes when Waterfoot sat next to her. Goldenflow never trusted him. His green eyes shone in the sun as he turned toward her. "Firepool nearly drowned. Saptail saved him though." Waterfoot flicked his ear. "I still can't believe he doesn't know how to swim," Goldenflow nodded but said nothing. As much as she thought that Firepool was strange, she admired his determination to stay in RiverClan. Every cat knows that he can't swim, and tempts him to leave RiverClan and go somewhere else. "Do you know the details?" she asked unexpectedly. She wanted to get a chance to make her day, considering Firepool would never tell her the full story. Waterfoot shook his head. "I was too busy fishing,"

Goldenflow nodded. "I forgot which mouse-brain named him after our enemy element," Waterfoot stared at her. "It was Wildstream, remember?"

"The one that died from a bite from a giant fish a few seasons ago." They burst out laughing. Mothstar and Saptail appeared from behind them, but Goldenflow didn't notice. But in the back of Goldenflow's mind, she couldn't help but feel sorry for Wildstream. She was insane, but at least Firepool didn't turn out that way. Sure, the ginger tom had his moments, but he wasn't that bad. But one question still lingered in Goldenflow's mind. Why would did Wildstream name her kit Firekit? The whole Clan tried to convince her to change it to a more appropriate name like Fishkit or Seakit, but Wildstream didn't buy it. So, when she died when Firepool was an apprentice, Calmstar, with the Clan's approval, found the perfect warrior name. Firepool. At least half of his name was related to water. Kind of. Even Firepool liked that name. But still, the Clan bullied him for not being able to swim. Goldenflow was tempted to give him swimming lessons, but that would make things even worse

when the Clan found out. And his father had died before Firepool was kitted, so that didn't help at all.

"Goldenflow!"

Goldenflow nearly jumped a fox-length into the air. "What?" she questioned, her eyes darting left to right. Waterfoot and Saptail were looking at her with an amused expression. "Did you hear any of what Mothstar said?" Saptail asked. Her tone was stern but easy-going. They took her silence as a no. "Mothstar said that Rushingpaw will have to learn battle-training for a bit,"

"Why?"

Waterfoot shrugged. "I think that Mothstar wants every cat to know how to defend themselves. In my opinion it's not a bad idea," disappointment passed through Goldenflow. Rushingpaw was her apprentice. He was great at fetching the right herbs and tending to wounds and infections. He was also a big help while everyone was suffering from the fire a few moons ago. *The fire.* A shutter passed through her. The fire where her sister died in flames.

As if reading her mind, Waterfoot spoke, "You know, your sister was a great fighter. Maybe she survived in the fire..." anger shot through Goldenflow. "Don't speak about Silvershore," she snarled. "She's gone. I'm surprised you don't understand. After all, you were in love with her! If she was still alive, you would already have her kits!" Waterfoot stepped back, shocked by her anger. But his shock quickly turned to fury. "It doesn't hurt to have hope!" he spat. "Waterfoot!" a new voice called. It was Sunfur, the deputy. The golden tom stepped toward Waterfoot. "You may join the border patrol with Seabreeze, Fishpelt, and Duskpaw."

"Gladly!" Waterfoot stalked off to meet the named cats. Sunfur stared after him. "Great StarClan, what's his problam?" he muttered half to himself. He turned back to Saptail and Goldenflow. "By the looks of your faces, I guessed I saved you from a nasty fight." Goldenflow snorted. "I could've beat him," Saptail narrowed her green eyes. "Sure," she retorted. "Saptail, join Redwhisker, Aquastorm, Dawnpaw, and Toothpaw on a hunting patrol." Sunfur trotted off.

"Well, I guess I've got to go, Goldenflow. We need to get as much fish as possible before the stream freezes over. It's Leaf-fall after all," Saptail cantered toward the cats for the hunting patrol, leaving Goldenflow alone.

# 🤍Chapter 2🤍

"Rushingpaw! Can you bring me some blackberry leaves?" The apprentice nodded and patted into the shadows of the medicine den. Goldenflow looked at the swollen wound on Firepool's leg. "How did you get this anyway?" she questioned. Firepool winced as Goldenflow licked the injury. "There was something sharp at the bottom of the stream," he said right before he cried in pain. Goldenflow rolled her eyes. How her clanmates delt with his annoyance is beyond her. "Oh please, I've seen better reactions with worse wounds." She stopped licking. "There, now all I need are the blackberry leaves," Her ears perked up as she heard Rushingpaw returning. "Thanks." Goldenflow started to chew the leaves. Once she was finished, she spat it out on the wound and started rubbing it on it. Firepool gasped in pain. As she ignored Firepool's exasperation, she asked Rushingpaw, "Are you nervous for battle-training tomorrow?" Rushingpaw nodded. "Yeah, at least I'll be training with Waterfoot," Goldenflow's eyes widened in shock. She stopped rubbing. "Really? That's great! I'm sure Waterfoot will be a great temporary mentor," she replied, trying not to show anger. Goldenflow hadn't forgotten their fight yesterday. *Oh Silvershore, I wish you were here right now.* "Can I leave now?" Firepool's voice crashed into her thoughts. "No, not yet. You shouldn't use your leg yet," Goldenflow turned to Rushingpaw. "Can you see that he gets some rest here? I need to go wash my paws," Rushingpaw nodded. "Of course. You can count on me." *Not tomorrow,* Goldenflow thought sadly. She would miss her apprentice.

Goldenflow patted out of the medicine den only to shut her eyes against the bright sun. Even though the sun was bright, it was quite chilly outside. When she opened her eyes, she even saw some patches of snow on the ground. *Leaf-bare is coming,* Goldenflow thought. *StarClan have mercy on us.*

"Goldenflow!"

Goldenflow blinked to see Saptail, Seabreeze, Aquastorm, and

Dawnpaw returning from a hunting patrol. Dismay passed through her when she saw that they hardly had any fresh kill. Just two squirrels. Goldenflow patted over to hear Aquastorm say, "Take this to the elders will you, Dawnpaw?" Aquastorm flicked her tail at the two squirrels. Dawnpaw nodded and bounded off to the elders den. "Mouse-dung! I can't believe the stream froze over already!" Saptail exclaimed. Seabreeze whispered something to Aquastorm and both of them headed to Sunfur at the other side of camp. Saptail acknowledged their leaving with a flick of her ear. She focused her gaze on Goldenflow.

"Goldenflow, I wanted to talk to you..."

Saptail shuffled her paws uncomfortably. Goldenflow suddenly felt concerned about her friend. They had been friends since kithood, and Goldenflow wanted to do everything in her power to help her.

"Can we talk somewhere private?"

"Alright..."

The two patted to the back of the medicine den, where it was quiet. Goldenflow sat down and stared at Saptail. "So... what do you want to talk to me about?" It took moments for Saptail to say something. "Can you promise not to tell anyone about this?"

"Of course! I promise."

"Alright... I guess it's obvious that I have feelings for Waterfoot right?"

Goldenflow couldn't suppress a gasp of shock. Not in seasons would she have guessed that Saptail was in love with Waterfoot! *Ugh, next thing she's going to ask me is to give her love advice!*

"Not to me," Goldenflow told her bluntly. "I never would have guessed!"

"Is that a good thing or a bad thing?"

"I don't know! You tell me!"

"Saptail! Where are you? Do you want to share some fresh kill with us?"

"Yeah! Redwhisker just brought in a juicy mouse!"

Saptail groaned. "Now that would be Seabreeze and Aquastorm- I've got to go." She jumped up and patted away. "See you later!" Goldenflow called after her.

...

After what felt like moons, Goldenflow finally arrived at the stream. Saptail was right: The stream was frozen over. Luckily, Goldenflow spotted a hole in the ice. Her paws felt numb as they were under the freezing water. Noticing her reflection in the water, she realized that she looked gloomy. *Is this what everyone sees? Is this why no one wants to talk to me?* Suddenly, she saw a familiar reflection appear next to hers. It was her sister!

"Silvershore!"

A pelt brushed Goldenflow. She turned to the right of her and saw a beautiful silver she-cat with blue eyes. "You're actually here..." Goldenflow trailed off. Her sister gave her a nod. "I'll always be here, sister," Silvershore's voice sounded melodic. It made Goldenflow feel as if she never had to worry again in life. "I will be watching over you... no matter where you are." Silvershore's figure began to fade.

"No! Wait! Please stay!"

But it was no use. Her sister was gone. Goldenflow turned around to see Dawnpaw sitting there with her jaw gaping open.

"How long have you been there?"

# 🤍Chapter 3🤍

"How long have you been there?"

The question echoed in Dawnpaw's mind. Goldenflow was standing up, her golden fur bristling.

"Long enough to see you were communicating with a StarClan warrior!"

Goldenflow sighed. "That was my sister. She died in a terrible fire a few moons ago."

"Oh... I was only a kit then. But that was so cool! Do all medicine cats get to do that?"

"Yes... in a way. Every half-moon all the medicine cats in the Clans must go to the Moonpool to share tongues with StarClan."

"Wow, that sounds so cool! Can I be your apprentice?"

Goldenflow chuckled. "I'm sorry, but I already have an apprentice. In fact, here he comes now."

The bushes rustled and a grey-blue tom with brown stripes came out.

"Yuck! He smells terrible!"

"That's because of the mouse-bile," Goldenflow replied. "All cats hate the smell," she turned towards the medicine cat apprentice. He was washing his paws in a hole in the ice frozen across the stream. "His name is Rushingpaw by the way,"

Dawnpaw suddenly felt a pang of envy. While she had to do boring hunting missions, they got to speak to StarClan!

"Does he accompany you to the Moonpool?"

"Of course."

"Does he speak to StarClan?"

"Probably."

Dawnpaw knew that Goldenflow was getting tired of her questions. But she just needed to ask one more.

"When's the next time that you're going to the Moonpool?"

"Tomorrow. We leave at mid-day."

"Goldenflow! Do you know where- Oh! There you are Dawnpaw! I was getting worried."

Dawnpaw inwardly groaned. It was her mentor, Aquastorm. Aquastorm was a very boring mentor in Dawnpaw's opinion. She'd much prefer if Goldenflow was her mentor.

"Yes, Aquastorm?"

"Come on! We're going to do some battle training! I know you like that!"

"I do?"

"Come."

Dawnpaw took one more glance at Goldenflow and then left to the training hollow with her mentor.

...

When Dawnpaw arrived at the training hollow, she was delighted to see her brother, Duskpaw, was also there. He was training with Fishpelt, his mentor. The older brown long-haired tom was teaching him some kind of advanced move. Dawnpaw wasn't great at fighting. But her cleverness made up for it.

"Dawnpaw! Today I will teach you the claw-up swipe move."

Aquastorm demonstrated it by rearing up her hind legs and swiping

upwards. Dawnpaw sighed. It was going to be a long day.

# 🤍Chapter 4🤍

Goldenflow was busy preparing traveling herbs for their journey to the Moonpool. "Alright, now I just need some daisies..."

"Rushingpaw! Can you bring me some daisies?"

The blue-grey tom nodded and rushed into the corner of the medicine den. Saptail walked in. Goldenflow looked up from her herbs and blinked. "Hello Saptail, what can I do for you?" Saptail rolled her eyes. "You don't need to act neutral around me, Goldenflow. I just wanted to know why you're leaving so early?"

"The Moonpool is all the way up from ThunderClan territory. It's pretty far."

"ThunderClan territory? Wow, you're brave!"

"How so? Oh, thank you, Rushingpaw." Goldenflow added as her apprentice dropped some daisies at her paws.

"Well, ThunderClan is very protective with their borders these days. They're craving for a fight."

Goldenflow shrugged. "So? They can't stop me. It's against the warrior code to attack a medicine cat."

Saptail sighed in defeat. "True."

"Why are you telling me this?"

"Cause I've got a feeling that something bad will happen."

Goldenflow touched her nose to her friend. "Nothing bad will happen. I'll be extra cautious."

...

The ThunderClan patrol walked around their territory.

"Can someone remind me why we're out here?"

"Because Earthstar ordered us to! Now can you shut up, Grasstail?"

"Fine... but what's the purpose?"

"Because we want to attack the medicine cats remember?"

"Oh yeah. Thanks, Seedfern."

"What was that?"

"What?"

"A twig snapped... over there!"

The two cats darted under a bush. They saw a flash of ginger and brown pass through the trees.

"That must be the apprentice!"

"Yes... the cat looked young."

"I don't care if it's young! Now come on before we lose the scent!"

They both started to pad towards the scent of the young cat.

...

Dawnpaw crept through the forest. It was so dark. But the scent of Goldenflow was clear. Her paws ached. Suddenly, she had a sinking feeling that she wasn't alone. She heard pawsteps behind her. They were getting faster. And faster. Dawnpaw didn't dare cry for help. Instead, she broke out into a sprint. The pawsteps were gaining on her. She felt relieved when she saw Goldenflow down below. *Water! I could stay in the water until the cats are gone. That must be the Moonpool!*

She didn't even notice when the pawsteps stopped. She just kept on going to the pool. Time was slowing down around her. She swore that she heard voices warning her to not go in the Moonpool. But she didn't listen. The pool got closer and closer...

# 🤍Chapter 5🤍

Goldenflow was about to lap the icy water when she heard running behind her. She turned around to see Dawnpaw sprinting towards the Moonpool. "Dawnpaw! No!" Goldenflow screamed as the she-cat apprentice jumped into the Moonpool. Dawnpaw remained at the surface of the starry waters for a moment, then black wispy paws raised up from around Dawnpaw and started dragging her under. Goldenflow watched, frozen in horror, as Dawnpaw's cries for help echoed around the hollow. The dreadful cries ended abruptly as Dawnpaw was pulled under, and everything was still. *I never should have come here.* She narrowed her eyes when she saw two ThunderClan warriors standing still, frozen in terror, at the edge of the hollow. Goldenflow was baffled as to how the other medicine cats didn't wake up.

"What was that?"

"I don't know, but let's get out of here! We need to report this to Earthstar immediately!"

The two warriors cantered up into the forest. *So that's why Dawnpaw was so frightened. She was being chased! But how did she manage to follow me all the way up here without traveling herbs? And what were those wispy paws? I need to speak to StarClan right now!*

Goldenflow lapped the cold water. As it was falling down her throat she closed her eyes. She opened them to see that she was in StarClan's hunting grounds. A familiar cat was standing in front of her.

"Silvershore!"

Silvershore narrowed her eyes. "StarClan has seen what has happened. We do not know the answers to your questions."

"But I need to find Dawnpaw! And what are those shadow things?"

"Those are shadow spirits. They come from The Void."

"What in StarClan's name is The Void?"

"There is much that we don't know about it. But there is one thing we know: those shadow spirits are evil. Some don't recognize that they're evil and will try to help you. But then their evil instincts come in... and you are gone."

"What do you mean, gone?"

"We do not know the answers to your questions. But there is one cat that does."

"Who?"

Silvershore's eyes turned bright white. And when she spoke again, hundreds of voices spoke with her.

"Where the water flows is where you must go.

Follow it until the green grass grows.

There you will find answers to the things you know."

...

Goldenflow's eyes snapped awake. *What do they mean, 'where the green grass grows?' It's Leaf-bare! Not Greenleaf!*

"Goldenflow? Are you going to leave?"

Redwing, the ThunderClan medicine cat, was waiting with Breezefeather, the WindClan medicine cat, and Whitemist, the ShadowClan medicine cat at the edge of the hollow.

"Yes, I'm coming!"

Breezefeather snorted. "Well, I'm not staying here and waiting." He turned and bounded into the forest.

Redwing stepped towards Goldenflow. "Are you alright?" she asked. Goldenflow nodded. "Yes, I'm fine."

"Whitemist? Redwing?"

"Yes?" they both asked at the same time.

"Can you stay with me on the way back? I want to talk with you."

"Sure. What's the problem?" Whitemist asked.

"Shadow spirits are invading our world."

# 💗Chapter 6💗

"WHAT????"

Redwing's surprise echoed so loudly that Goldenflow thought her clanmates could hear it back in their camp. But hey, what other reaction could there be?

Whitemist looked like she didn't believe it. Goldenflow couldn't blame her. After all, who would believe that shadow spirits were invading from the depths of The Void or whatever that is? You might as well say it's the end of the world.
"Did you get a prophecy with this too?" Whitemist asked while rolling her eyes.

"Actually, I did."

That made Whitemist widen her eyes. Redwing looked like she knew she was going to die.

"Well, what's the prophecy?" Whitemist questioned. Goldenflow noticed that there was a hint of nervousness in her voice.

Goldenflow repeated the prophecy.

"Wow. I can't believe it! It is true!" Whitemist exclaimed.

"Did you think I was lying about shadow things coming to destroy us?"

"No... it just sounds odd though. I've never seen anything like this." Redwing replied.

"Well, I don't know what to do. Like what does 'Where the green grass grows' mean?" Goldenflow inquired.
"Well, maybe you have to travel next to the stream until Greenleaf." Redwing suggested.

Goldenflow shot a glare at her. "That is the most ridiculous thing I

have ever heard. You're hiding something." She snapped.

"Goldenflow, there's something *you're* not telling us." Redwing retorted angrily.

Alarm shot through Goldenflow.

"What do you mean?"

Redwing's green eyes were blazing with fury. "You thought I didn't see it, did you? This whole thing is your fault!"

Before Goldenflow could reply, Whitemist turned toward her and asked, "What did you do?"

"Yes, Whitemist deserves to know. Tell her." Redwing's voice was terrifyingly calm.

Goldenflow couldn't say it. She spun around and shouted, "Meet me here at the next half-moon! I'll explain everything!"

They didn't answer as Goldenflow sprinted into the forest.

...

She ran into the dawn patrol before she got to her camp. The patrol consisted of Saptail, Sunfur, Seabreeze, and Thornwillow. No doubt Sunfur was the one leading it. After all, he was the Clan deputy.

"Goldenflow! It's already dawn! Are you alright? Have you seen Dawnpaw?"

Dawnpaw! Goldenflow had almost forgotten about the poor apprentice. Saptail was looking at her with a concerned expression.

"I'm fine." Goldenflow panted.

"That's all fine, but we have some bad news: Dawnpaw is missing," Sunfur announced sadly. "Mothstar is panicking and the whole Clan is worried. And worse: none of the other Clans have her. Duskpaw refuses to do anything except mope all day instead of helping us find his sister."

"And Aquastorm is also panicking because it ruins her reputation as a mentor. And because she's responsible for Dawnpaw." Thornwillow added.

"So, have you seen anything?" Seabreeze questioned.

"No, I haven't seen her. I hope she's okay." Goldenflow felt extremely guilty for telling lies when she knew exactly why Dawnpaw was missing.

All the cats sighed with disappointment.

"Well, I guess I'll see you later," Saptail murmured.

...

The whole camp was in a panic when Goldenflow arrived. She needed to talk to Mothstar, needed to visit WindClan to ask Breezefeather to come to the meeting tonight and make Rushingpaw a full-fledged medicine cat. She sighed: There was a lot to do. *But not now,* she thought. *I'll just get some rest first. After all, maybe everything will be fine when I wake up...*

# 🤍Chapter 7🤍

When Goldenflow woke up that morning, she realized that the camp was dead silent. She patted out of the medicine den only to shiver. The sky was dark grey and had no trace of sunlight.

"Hello? Where is everyone?"

There was no reply. Only whispers sounded through the breeze. Then, Goldenflow saw Silvershore.

"Silvershore!"

It was a dream. *Thank StarClan!*

Silvershore didn't speak. Instead, a small figure emerged from the shadows of the camp. Goldenflow's breath caught in her throat. It was Dawnpaw!

"Dawnpaw? What are you doing here?"

Dawnpaw blinked her blue eyes at her.

"My name is Dawnlight now. I drowned before they could take me. I am with StarClan now."

Goldenflow didn't know how to feel about that. *How will I tell Mothstar and Aquastorm?*

"I know what you are planning to do," Dawnlight meowed. "You don't want to make the journey alone. But either way, you will have to."

"What do you mean? And why are you acting so wise? I remember when you were an eager apprentice..."

Dawnlight didn't answer. Instead, she started fading.

"Wait! Don't play your StarClan tricks on me! I don't deserve this!"

But it was hopeless. Dawnlight was gone. *Ugh, StarClan is so frustrating. Like they want to worn you about something, but they don't. What?*

Goldenflow felt a tail on her shoulder. She spun around. It was her sister.

"Goldenflow. You must follow the path that suits you. Not anyone else."

"What does that even mean?"

But Silvershore was fading with everything else.

...

"Someone! Help!"

Goldenflow's eyes snapped open. She recognized that voice. It was Sweetpelt. The Clan was already gathered around Sweetpelt.

"What's happening?" Fishpelt's voice called.

Sweetpelt's voice was trembling. "Goldenflow said that my kits would be arriving any time now, so I went to tell Sunfur, my mate. But when I stepped inside the warriors den, I couldn't find him. But I found him by the side of the lake - dead!"

Horrified gasps came from everyone. Sunfur was a great deputy. And the gathering was coming up. Mothstar in particular looked shaken.

"We must retrieve his body immediately. Seabreeze, Waterfoot, and Firepool, go fetch his body and look for any clumps of fur. Be wary: the murderer could still be around." Mothstar warned. She turned toward Redwhisker and Thornwillow. "You two, comfort Sweetpelt. She's still in shock. And her kitting could happen anytime."

The two warriors nodded and patted towards Sweetpelt.

"Hey! What can we do? We wanna help the Clan!"

It was Toothpaw and Duskpaw.

"How about this: You guys can go on a patrol to look for Dawnpaw. Aquastorm will join you."

Duskpaw's excitement faded into grief. Mothstar noticed.

"You can go now if you want."

Aquastorm and the two apprentices cantered out of camp.

"The sooner you find Dawnpaw the better!" Mothstar called after them. "For all of us," she added under her breath. Goldenflow let out a purposeful cough. Mothstar's eyes widened when she saw that Saptail and Goldenflow were still waiting for their orders.

"Saptail, you can go to the nursery with Willowfur, Yellowtail, and soon Sweetpelt. Your kits should be coming anytime now."

Saptail nodded and bounded towards the nursery, leaving Goldenflow with a shocked expression.

"Saptail is expecting kits?! I never confirmed that!" Goldenflow protested with disbelief.

Mothstar nodded. "I know it wasn't you. It was Rushingpaw. He told us when you were gone."

Goldenflow couldn't believe it. Her apprentice knew that Saptail was expecting kits but never told her!

"Why?"

Mothstar looked taken aback. "What do you mean?"

"Why didn't he tell me?"

"I don't know... maybe it's because their Waterfoot's kits?"

"WHAT? Saptail mated with Waterfoot and didn't tell me!?"

"You know, I advise talking to Saptail about this."

"You know what? That's exactly what I'm going to do!"

Goldenflow stalked off toward the nursery.

"SAPTAIL! GET OUT HERE!" she roared, loud enough for the whole Clan to hear. Cats started to gather over to Goldenflow.

Saptail emerged from the nursery, along with the three other queens who hung back with curious, scared, and puzzled expressions. "What's wrong, Goldenflow?"

"You want to know what's wrong? That you didn't tell me that you mated with Waterfoot that's what!"

"Oh. That. I was scared to tell you. I know you hate Waterfoot."

"Didn't you think that I'd find out eventually? I am a medicine cat after all! Those kits shouldn't even live!!!" Goldenflow snarled. Saptail growled back and unsheathed her claws.

"How dare you say that my kits shouldn't live!" Saptail lunged at Goldenflow.

That's when Goldenflow saw it: Saptail's belly convulsed. Her kits were here.

Goldenflow dodged Saptail's lunge. Saptail landed hard on the ground. She let out a shriek of pure pain.

"Someone help me! The kits are coming!"

Goldenflow glanced around. The three queens were frozen with shock, the elders had their jaws gaping open, and Mothstar was staring helplessly. All the warriors had left camp. *Wait, where's Rushingpaw, that traitor of an apprentice? Oh yeah, he's delivering catmint to ShadowClan. Just perfect.*

Saptail was yowling in pure agony. Her belly convulsed, and a small kit appeared. Willowfur ran up to it and started licking furiously. After a few moments, she let out a yowl of triumph.

"It's breathing! And it's a she-cat!"

Yellowtail ran over when Saptail pushed out another kit. Yellowtail did the same thing and announced:

"It's a tom!"

A third kit came out. *Great StarClan, how many kits are there?*

"It's another she-cat!" came Sweetpelt's voice.

After a forth kit came out, Saptail stopped yowling in pain. She was bleeding heavily.

"And the last one is a tom again!" Willowfur exclaimed. "We need to get these kits in the nursery!"

Saptail stared up at Goldenflow with pleading eyes. "Please help me. I'm so sorry for how I had kits with Waterfoot."

"No, I'm the one that should be sorry. I was being a fox-heart. Can you forgive me?"

Saptail nodded weekly.

"Alright, now I need to get you some cobwebs and borage leaves. I'll be right back."

As much as Goldenflow was mad before, she couldn't watch her best friend die. Not now, not ever.

# 🤍Chapter 8🤍

"There! You're all fixed up! Just try not to move much okay? And take these borage leaves."

Goldenflow was in a good mood again. She still mourned for Sunfur, the lost deputy. Goldenflow was nervous to know who was the new deputy. It was almost moonhigh.

Saptail blinked gratefully at her. "Thank you so much. I'm sorry that I overreacted before."

Goldenflow shook her head. "It was all me. I just hate when cats talk about pitying me just because I lost my sister."

Saptail nodded. "I understand. That's why you're still mad at Waterfoot huh?"

"Yeah, and I'm nervous that he'll be appointed deputy."

"You know, maybe you two should talk to each other. Maybe you can resolve your conflict."

Goldenflow was caught off guard. "You mean just go up to him?"

"Why not? It can't hurt. And if he refuses to say anything, then he's just a fox-heart."

"Wow, someone's talking bad about their mate!"

Saptail rolled her eyes. "Oh stop you!" she exclaimed amusingly. "But just try to talk to him, okay?" she pleated, in a serious tone.

"Alright fine. But if something goes wrong, then I'm blaming you."

Saptail chuckled. "Now that's the Goldenflow I know."

Goldenflow watched her friend leave. Then a thought popped into her head.

"Hey, Saptail! Can I see your kits?"

Saptail stopped and turned around.

"Of course silly! Come with me!"

Goldenflow bounded eagerly after her.

...

All three queens hissed furiously when Goldenflow stepped into the nursery.

"Are you done with your conflict?" Willowfur snarled.

"Yeah, we had to do *your* job yesterday! I wouldn't be surprised if you would have left Saptail's kits to die!" Yellowtail hissed.

Sweetpelt looked the most aggressive.

"Are you going to do the same thing with my kits?" she questioned, her voice dangerously low.

"No. I'm truly sorry for my behavior before."

"Just don't do it again." Sweetpelt mewed, her voice calm again.

"Do you guys have any problems?"

Willowfur stood up. "Yeah, my daughter is missing!" she cried.

"We're doing the best we can." Saptail smoothed.

Willowfur snorted and turned away.

"Do you still want to see my kits?" Saptail asked.

"Of course! I wouldn't miss it for anything!" Goldenflow replied.

Saptail brought Goldenflow to see four kits huddled together, sleeping.

"Did you name them yet?" Goldenflow inquired.

Saptail nodded. "Yes, I and Waterfoot named them just before."

She turned and gestured to a blue-grey she-cat.

"That's Streamkit."

"Nice name."

"And this is Splashkit," Saptail said while gesturing to a blueish she-cat.

"This is Fluffkit," Saptail introduced while looking at an orange tom. "We named him that because he was so fluffy."

Saptail sighed and looked at an orange tom. "And this is Pufferkit."

"Those are beautiful names, Saptail. And I'm certain that they'll grow to be the best warriors in RiverClan." Goldenflow praised.

"I sure hope so."

"May all cats old enough to swim gather underneath the willow tree for a Clan meeting!" Mothstar's voice echoed throughout the camp.

Goldenflow patted towards the willow tree with Saptail right behind her.

"Mothstar better hurry - it's almost moonhigh!" Saptail whispered.

Mothstar waited until every cat was gathered, then started to speak.

"I say these words before StarClan, so that the spirits of our warrior ancestors and Sunfur may hear and approve of my choice. The new deputy of RiverClan is Waterfoot."
Goldenflow's worst nightmare had come true, but she didn't feel afraid. Not anymore.
Waterfoot's eyes went wide with surprise. He patted over to the roots of the willow tree. "RiverClan, I never expected to achieve deputyship. But now that I have, I promise to keep serving RiverClan more than ever before."
"Whaterfoot! Waterfoot! Waterfoot!" Cheers rang through the Clan.
"I also have another thing to announce," Mothstar spoke. "Fishpelt,

is Duskpaw ready to become a warrior?"
Fishpelt nodded. "He is."
Duskpaw's eyes went wide with surprise.
"I, Mothstar, leader of RiverClan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on this apprentice. They have trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code, and I commend them to you as a warrior in their turn. Duskpaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and defend your Clan, even at the cost of your life?" Duskpaw didn't hesitate. "I do." "Then by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior name. Duskpaw, from this moment on you will be known as Duskclaw. StarClan honors your determination and loyalty, and we welcome you as a full warrior of RiverClan."
"Duskclaw! Duskclaw! Duskclaw!" the Clan cheered.
Duskclaw's eyes shone with happiness, Willowfur couldn't look more proud, and in that moment, Goldenflow thought that life was fine. If only it was...

# 🤍Chapter 9🤍

"The cats coming to the gathering are Redwhisker, Thornwillow, Duskclaw, and Fishpelt. We will be leaving shortly."

Mothstar leaped off the willow tree and patted into her den with Waterfoot.

Goldenflow bounded over to Duskclaw, who was trembling with sadness.

"What's wrong?" she asked.

Duskclaw looked into her eyes. "I just wish my sister was a warrior with me."

Goldenflow had no control of what she said next.

"She is. Her name is Dawnlight in StarClan."

Duskclaw's mouth gaped open with horror.

"She's dead!? And you didn't tell me? What is wrong with you!?" he snarled.

"I-"

"Don't try to apologize. I'm reporting this to Mothstar." Duskclaw stalked off to Mothstar's den.

*I'm in so much trouble.* Goldenflow thought.

She felt a tail touch her shoulder.

"Are you okay?" It was Saptail.

"I'm in so much trouble..."

Saptail gasped. "Oh no! What did you do?"

"You don't want to know."

"Yes, I do."

"Fine, I-"

"Goldenflow!" Whaterfoot's voice shook her. "Mothstar wants to have a talk with you. And she doesn't seem happy."

As Goldenflow patted towards the leader's den, she heard Waterfoot mutter, "I can't believe it. Who knew that one of us is a lier?"

...

Mothstar was twitching her tail impatiently when Goldenflow walked in. Mothstar looked up to stare at her, and with that stare, cold fury lurked.

"So, are you sad that you didn't get to keep your little secret?"

"What? No! I was going to tell you eventually!"

Mothstar let out a snort of disbelief. "When hedgehogs fly!"

She thrust her muzzle right in Goldenflow's face. "What other secrets are you hiding?"

"Nothing."

"You can't fool me. Now tell me, or you'll face dire consequences."

"I don't care if you exile me! Or kill me! I won't reveal anything! You won't understand!"

Mothstar narrowed her eyes. "If you won't tell me, then I'll ask StarClan!"

"What? And how are you going to do that?"

"Like this."

Mothstar unsheathed her claws. Terror shook Goldenflow. Mothstar had seven lives left. And she was going to waist them by killing

herself.

Over and over again.

# 💗Chapter 10💗

"No! Stop!"

But it was no use. Mothstar slashed open her own throat. And Goldenflow felt helpless. She just stood there and watched as Mothstar killed herself seven times.

"One last time. Then I discover everything of yours." Mothstar grinned. Her paws and pelt were dripping with blood. Mothstar reached up to end herself. Goldenflow couldn't take it anymore. She lunged at her leader.

"What are you doing?!" Mothstar shrieked as she got pinned down.

"You can't do this! Fine, I'll tell you all of my secrets!"

Mothstar grinned evilly. "Oh, it's too late for that. I only have one life left. What's the use of living now?"

To Goldenflow's horror, Mothstar reached up and tore her throat open one last time, before closing her eyes forever. The blood splattered all over Goldenflow. Fighting panic, she started washing herself before she was blamed for Mothstar's death.

"Mothstar? Are we going yet?"

Waterfoot poked his head into the den and his eyes widened in terror. The terror quickly turned to fury.

"You murdered our leader!"

Before Goldenflow could react, Waterfoot jumped onto the willow tree branch.

"Everyone! Come here immediately!"

Cats started hurrying towards the willow tree, looking concerned and frightened.

"What's going on?" Sunpelt, one of the elders called. "And where is Mothstar?"

Waterfoot looked down at the crowd.

"I have brought terrible news: Mothstar is dead."

Cats started yowling in panic.

"What caused Mothstar to lose a life?" Redwhisker questioned.

"Not just one life, but all of them."

Goldenflow had never seen the Clan look so terrified.

"I know who murdered Mothstar." Waterfoot continued.

The Clan was dead silent.

"It was Goldenflow."

Shocked gasps spread throughout the Clan.

"Goldenflow? She would never!" That was Saptail.

Waterfoot's eyes narrowed. "Are you sure about that? Goldenflow, step out of the leader's den."

As Goldenflow stepped out, she saw shocked expressions on every cat except Waterfoot.

"I can't believe it! My mentor is a killer!" Rushingpaw cried.

"Goldenflow! I can't believe you! I can't even believe you're my clanmate!" Aquastorm exclaimed.

"Enough! Goldenflow, do you have anything to say for yourself?" Waterfoot inquired.

Not bothering to argue, Goldenflow shook her head.

"Then I hereby send you into exile. If you are spotted on our territory, my warriors have permission to kill you." Waterfoot

finished.

Not bothering to say anything, Goldenflow turned around and patted towards the exit of the camp. As she did, she felt every single cat's eyes piercing into her fur.

# 🤍Chapter 11🤍

Goldenflow trotted out of RiverClan territory. Her eyes were filled with fury. *Oh, StarClan, how could you do this to me?*

It wasn't even light yet, but Goldenflow could hear prey scuffling beneath bushes and trees.

One squirrel darted right in front of her as if taunting her to catch it. Goldenflow ignored it and kept going to the horseplace. After all, where else could she go?

Goldenflow's eyes widened when she saw the faint shape of a cat sitting right near horseplace.

"Hey, you! Who are you?" she shouted as she ran closer.

The cat turned towards her and Goldenflow saw the glint of green eyes.

"Goldenflow." The cat greeted in a she-cat voice. "I didn't expect you here."

"Redwing! What are you doing here?"

Redwing scoffed. "I could ask you the same thing."

"I got blamed for Mothstar's murder so I got exiled."

Redwing's jaw gaped in astonishment. "You?"

"I don't want to talk about it."

Redwing nodded. "Understandable."

"So, what are *you* doing here?"

"I left ThunderClan."

"Why?"

"I don't wanna talk about it," Redwing replied with mockery in her voice.

Goldenflow slapped a paw to her face and shook her head.

"So, I wanted to apologize for my rage the last time we met. Do you know what happened to Dawnpaw?" Redwing asked, concern in her voice.

"She's Dawnlight now. She's a warrior in StarClan."

"Oh... I'm sorry for your loss."

"Don't apologize. Things happen."

Redwing nodded. "Alright, I've been thinking about your prophecy lately."

"What about it?"

"I think it's meant for the both of us. We need to travel together."

"What? Not that I wouldn't like traveling with you..."

Redwing purred. "Oh Goldenflow, you're so predictable. We need to get going now! Who knows what awaits us?"

Goldenflow nodded. "This is our destiny. No one can interfere."

"So, first thing, we need to go to the stream in your territory."

Goldenflow looked down at her paws. "I don't know. If I get caught by a patrol, then I'm crow-food."

Redwing put her tail on Goldenflow's shoulder. "We'll be fine. This is our destiny. StarClan won't let us get caught."

"Alright, let's do this!"

...

The twosome crept into RiverClan territory. Their pawsteps were completely silent on the snow, not even prey noticed them. They finally found the stream they were looking for.

"Ok, we're here. Wow, look in the opposite direction of the lake! It leads to unknown territory! I can't really see it well though because of the snow." Redwing observed.

Goldenflow sighed. *This is it,* she thought. *The last time in familiar territory.*

"Are you ready? We must travel until the green grass grows." Redwing meowed.

Goldenflow nodded. "It's a long way, but we can do it."

"Alright, let's go!"

And with that, both cats headed south of the lake, just as the first light of dawn arrived.

# 🤍Chapter 12🤍

"I feel as if I've been walking forever!" Redwing moaned.

A few days have passed since Goldenflow and Redwing left the lake and they haven't run into any green grass yet.

"Me too. But no one said it would be easy." Goldenflow panted.

"Well, I'm tired. Hey, look! There's a sheltered spot underneath that tree!" Redwing exclaimed.

"Hey, isn't it odd that there are green leaves growing on it?" Goldenflow questioned.

Redwing blinked. "You're right: that is odd."

"Wait! What if it's a sign? What if we need to go this way?" Goldenflow suggested.

"Could be."

"And look! There's a cave!"

Redwing twitched her whiskers nervously. "What if something lives in there?"

Silvershore's voice whispered, "It is safe." In Goldenflow's ear.

"It's safe: I know it."

Redwing gave her a suspicious look but said nothing. "Fine, you can go first."

Goldenflow shrugged. "Fine by me."

Goldenflow patted into the cave. She gasped when she saw it was so long.

"You can come in! It's safe!" Goldenflow called over her shoulder.

A few moments later, Redwing trotted in and amazement flashed in her eyes.

This is perfect for shelter! And there's the stream right outside to drink!"

Goldenflow nodded in agreement: it really was perfect.

"Hey! Look! There's a hole above us!" Redwing cried.

Goldenflow looked up. A hole, about the size of her, lay above them. The sky showed clearly through it.

Suddenly, an unfamiliar scent washed over her. Goldenflow sniffed the air. It smelled familiar, but at the same time, different.

"Do you smell that?" Goldenflow asked Redwing.

Redwing sniffed the air. She nodded. But then her face turned to anxiety as she looked at the ground ahead.

"Look! Pawprints! Other cats have been here. And by the scent, recently. Maybe we should get out of here. We don't know if these inhabitants are friendly."

"Not so fast!" A voice called from ahead. A stranger stepped in front of them. It was a grey tom with green eyes.

Goldenflow looked to see Redwing trembling beside her.

"What are you doing here?" the stranger asked.

Goldenflow was about to speak but Redwing spoke first.

"We're so sorry! It's just that we're outcasts to our Clans and we have nowhere to stay! We didn't know you lived here! We don't even know your name! Our names are Redwing and Goldenflow!"

The stranger blinked. "I'm sorry for not introducing myself. My name is Skywatcher and I'm the Healer of The Tribe of Clear Skies."

Redwing turned towards Goldenflow.

"Another Tribe? I've heard of The Tribe of Rushing Water, but I've never heard of this Tribe. And whatever a 'healer' is." She whispered.

Goldenflow nodded in agreement.

Skywatcher continued to speak.

"In respect, I will introduce you to the rest of the Tribe." He beckoned a tortoiseshell she-cat forward. The tortoiseshell bowed in greeting.

"My name is Rain That Comes When Clouds Are Grey."

Goldenflow and Redwing nodded in greeting.

Next, was a black tom that looked grumpy.

"My name is Storm That Is Filled With Fury."

*What kind of name is that?* Goldenflow asked herself.

After Storm left, a beautiful golden she-cat appeared.

"My name is Eagle That Takes Flight."

Goldenflow noticed that there were only two more cats left to introduce. Were all Tribes small like this?

Second to last, a reddish tom that reminded Goldenflow of Redwhisker at home stepped up to them.

"My name is Fox That Hides When Hunted."

And finally, another tom with a white pelt approached them.

"My name is Snow That Comes Crashing Down From Mountain."

"That's it?" Redwing asked. "There's no one else?"

Skywatcher sighed deeply.

"Our Tribe is under mysterious conditions. I and my Tribemates have seen shadows of cats walk around us. Our cats are disappearing."

Goldenflow gasped. "So you've seen them too? And they've taken your cats?"

Skywatcher jerked back. "Yes. By your names, I'm guessing you've come a long way. If you've seen them too, then this is serious. And there's only one hope: we must find the holy flower."

Redwing tilted her head. "What's that?"

"It's an ancient flower used by us to ward off evil. I hadn't used it yet because I didn't think it was necessary. But now it's time, and it's our only hope."

# Tribe of Clear Skies

Tribe-Healer

**Watcher Of The Sky (Skywatcher)-** grey tabby tom with green eyes

Prey-Hunters

**Rain That Comes When Clouds Are Grey (Rain)-** tortoiseshell she-cat with blue eyes

**Eagle That Takes Flight (Eagle)-** beautiful golden she-cat with amber eyes

**Fox That Hides When Hunted (Fox)-** red-colored tom with brown eyes

**Golden That Flows Through The Stream (Goldenflow)-** orange she-cat with deep blue eyes

Cave-Guards

**Storm That Is Filled With Fury (Storm)-** black tom with amber eyes

**Snow That Comes Crashing Down From Mountain (Snow)-** white tom with blue eyes

**Red Wing Over Sunset (Redwing)-** red-colored she-cat with green eyes

To-Bes

**Breeze Caught In Storm (Breeze)-** golden-colored she-cat with brown eyes

**Hunter That Waits For Prey (Hunter)-** red-colored she-cat with blue eyes

Kit Mothers

**River Where Fish Swim (River)-** blue-grey she-cat with hazel eyes

**Shade In Thick Forest (Shade)-** black she-cat with yellow eyes

**Leaf That Shakes In Storm (Leaf)-** copper-point she-cat with green eyes

Elders

**Owl From Great Tree (Owl)-** sable she-cat with yellow eyes

**Glow Of Raising Sun (Glow)-** pale grey she-cat with purple eyes

**Wolf That Howls In Night (Wolf)-** white she-cat with green eyes

**Raven That Flies To Stream (Raven)-** black she-cat with blue eyes

# 🤍Chapter 13🤍

It's been a few days since Goldenflow and Redwing had arrived in the Tribe of Clear Skies.

"I can't believe this is where the prophecy wanted us to go! A whole new Tribe! Isn't this exciting!" Redwing exclaimed.

They were sitting and eating their daily meal in the cave. The Tribe hunts fish, birds, and sometimes foxes, to Fox's dislike. The mouse-brain thinks it's insulting to his name.

"Yeah, it is. I was thinking of joining the Tribe."

Redwing's eyes went wide with surprise. "Really? I'm happy for you, Goldenflow."

Goldenflow took a bite of her share of bird. It tasted pretty good. She'd been used to eating fish for her whole life so she had no idea of what she was missing out on.

"Aren't you staying with me?"

"Of course! Why would I want to go back to the Clans?"

"Speaking of the Clans, why don't you tell us about them?" Fox's voice came from behind them.

Goldenflow turned around and stared into his eyes. His eyes were bright brown, almost glowing. Reality turned off around her. She felt as if she could stare into his eyes forever.

"Um, Goldenflow, are you paying attention?" Redwing's voice broke her trance.

Goldenflow blinked. "Yes."

Fox narrowed his eyes in amusement. "Someone's thinking about something."

Goldenflow froze. "What do you mean?"

Before Fox could respond, Skywatcher patted to the center of the clearing. Someone shouted, "Skywatcher wants to speak!"

All commotion stopped. Cats were staring silently at Skywatcher.

"Tribe of Clear Skies, as you know, we have two guests formerly of the Clans. The Tribe of Endless Hunting has spoken: they accept these two cats into our Tribe if they wish."

Turning to Redwing, Skywatcher addressed her.

"Redwing, do you wish to join our Tribe, and with it, our ways and beliefs?"

Goldenflow felt her breathing stop. If she joins the Tribe, she might lose contact with her sister forever! But something was telling her that she would still see her sister. *Oh, I hope I'm making the right choice!*

Goldenflow looked at Redwing, and felt comforted that her friend was thinking the same thing: Will they lose contact with StarClan forever?

But her friend made her decision. "I do."

"And now The Tribe of Endless Hunting will know you as Red Wing Over Sunset. Our Tribe welcomes you as a cave guard. You will receive training in our ways of fighting starting tomorrow. You may still use your old name."

"Red Wing Over Sunset!" the Tribe cheered.

Redwing looked happy to hear her new name.

Skywatcher turned towards Goldenflow.

"Goldenflow, do you wish to join our Tribe, and with it, our ways and beliefs?"

Goldenflow didn't hesitate. "I do."

"And now The Tribe of Endless Hunting will know you as Golden That Flows Through The Stream. Our Tribe welcomes you as a prey hunter. You will receive training in our ways of hunting starting tomorrow. You may still use your old name."

"Golden That Flows Through The Stream!" the Tribe cheered.

Goldenflow turned to see Fox looking happy. She sighed. This is the destiny that I've been waiting for. And nothing will change that.

# 🤍Chapter 14🤍

"Golden That Flows Through The Stream! Wake up! It's time for hunting!"

Goldenflow lifted her head. Fox was staring at her.

"Just call me Goldenflow, please. My new name is long."

"Goldenflow..." Fox looked thoughtful for a moment as if the name sounded weird on his tongue.

Goldenflow slowly stood up and started to walk across the cave. She heard running pawsteps behind her.

"Hey, wait up!" Fox called.

Goldenflow turned to face him. "So, who's going hunting?" she asked.

Fox blinked. "All the prey-hunters of course."

"So you, Rain, Eagle, and me?"

Fox nodded. "Yes, and the rest shall guard the cave."

"So, are we going hunting or what?" Eagle asked from behind them. Rain was there also.

"Yes. Let's go."

The prey hunters walked outside the cave to see that the sun was barely up.

"By StarClan, why do we get up so early?"

The other prey hunters looked at her strangely. "We always get up at this time. This is when prey is out. And what is this 'StarClan'?" Rain asked.

Goldenflow remembered that these cats have different beliefs than Clan cats.

She shook her head. "Nothing."

The cats carried on. Soon they came across a huge open space. The rising sun made the morning frost shine.

"Wow, it's beautiful! But how do we all hunt over such a large area?" Goldenflow questioned.

"We'll split up. Rain and I will hunt over there." Eagle gestured to the left side of the clearing.

"And you and Fox will take the right side." Rain finished.

Goldenflow was about to leave with Fox when Eagle warned, "Remember that we can't hunt foxes or big birds because we don't have any cave guards with us."

"Got it!" Goldenflow replied.

"Thank the Tribe of Endless Hunting for that," Fox muttered under his breath. "I hate hunting foxes."

Goldenflow rolled her eyes.

"Of course you do."

Fox glared at her with a glint of amusement in his eyes. "Hey!"

"Hey yourself." Goldenflow retorted.

Fox snorted. "Maybe I should make fun of your 'StarClan'." He mocked.

"Hey! That's a religious belief!"

"So you get the excuses huh? Well, I'll-" Fox's reply was stopped short when they spotted a mouse sniffing ahead. Fox nudged Goldenflow forward. "You know how to hunt mice better than I do," he whispered in her ear. "Maybe you could teach me how to do

better someday,"

"Maybe..."

Goldenflow dropped into a crouch. The truth is, she only got a bit of hunting experience when she received warrior training before she wanted to become a medicine cat. But Fox didn't know that she was a medicine cat. He thought that she was a warrior. A cat that could have a mate.

She stalked forward, keeping her tail just off the ground. The breeze was blowing towards her, masking her scent. She made sure to not step on any twigs as she got closer to the mouse. The mouse still hadn't noticed her as she leaped onto it and gave it a swift bite on the neck. She had accidentally drawn blood when she had dug her claws in it, but it was still edible. She carried it in her mouth but dropped it when she heard flapping wings. Goldenflow saw a large bird pinned down by Fox.

"Come pin it down while I kill it!" he yowled at her. Goldenflow bounded over and leaped on top of the bird. Fox jumped off and slashed the bird's throat, drawing a lot of blood. The bird fell limp.

"Wow, this will feed everyone!" Goldenflow exclaimed, impressed.

"Yes, but we need to carry it together. It's too big for just one of us." Fox meowed.

"Sure!" Goldenflow agreed.

Rain and Eagle came cantering over to them from the left side of the clearing.

"Did you catch-" Eagle started, but stopped when she saw the bloodied bird.

"We need to get out of here!" Rain cried.

Eagle narrowed her eyes at Fox and Goldenflow. "I thought I told you to not hunt giant birds. Now we need to get out of here before we attract foxes."

Goldenflow's spine bristled in alarm: foxes were deadly enemies.

They carried the bird all the way home. They went as fast as possible. Finally, they arrived at the cave. Redwing was standing guard.

"Wow! That's a huge bird! I've never seen one of those!" she breathed.

"This is a hawk. This bird could kill a cat if it wanted to. Fox and Goldenflow hunted it." Eagle informed.

Redwing's eyes suddenly glistened with a new respect for Goldenflow.

"You're the best friend I could ever have. And bravest." Redwing meowed with awe.

While Eagle, Rain, and Fox carried the hawk into the cave, Goldenflow started to talk with Redwing.

"So, how do you like being a cave guard?" Goldenflow asked.

"It's great! Now I don't need to hang back and hide during an attack! How do you like being a prey-hunter?"

"It's cool: I never got the opportunity to hunt while I was a medicine cat."

Redwing was about to respond when a hiss came from outside the cave. It was a full-grown fox. *It must have smelled the blood from the hawk!*

"Goldenflow! Get inside! I'm going to defend this Tribe!"

"Are you crazy? I'm going to get Storm and Snow!"

"No! Don't! Can't you see? This is my chance to prove myself to the Tribe!"

Goldenflow ran inside the cave. There was no way that Redwing wouldn't need help. Goldenflow looked back over her shoulder.

Redwing was circling the fox, taunting it. There wasn't much time.

"Everyone! Fox attack! Someone get Storm and Snow!"

Rain jumped up and ran to the back of the cave. Meanwhile, Skywatcher was looking up at the hole at the top of the cave with a worried expression.

"What's wrong?" Goldenflow inquired.

Skywatcher turned towards her, gaze darkened. "The Tribe of Endless Hunting has made it clear: it's going to storm. Right now."

# 🤍Chapter 15🤍

"So? Who cares?" Goldenflow retorted

Skywatcher narrowed his eyes. "You need to get Red Wing Over Sunset in here now!"

"But the fox-"

"NOW!"

Goldenflow whipped around and ran with all her speed toward the exit.

All the Tribe cats were gathered around the exit, their eyes wide with awe. Redwing was fighting so adequately.

"Redwing!" Goldenflow burst through the crowd of cats. "You need to get in here now!"

Thunder rumbled in the sky.

Redwing swiped a giant swipe at the fox's head. The fox whimpered and dashed off.

"I did it!" she yowled.

Redwing started to trot towards the cave but then lightning struck the tree right above her. A sharp branch cracked off and fell towards Redwing. She let out a screech of terror as the sharp part of the branch plunged into her skull with a sickening crack. The rain started to fall.

"Redwing! No!" Goldenflow yowled. She started to walk out outside when a paw stopped her. It was Skywatcher. "You don't want to die too." He meowed.

"She might not be dead!" Goldenflow ran out into the rain. She grabbed Redwing's body by the scruff and dragged it in. The Tribe

gathered in a circle around Goldenflow. Goldenflow pressed her ears to listen for a heartbeat. To her dismay, it was silent.

"No! First, it was my sister and now it's my best friend! This is all your fault!" she stormed up to Skywatcher. "If you had made her a prey-hunter then none of this would have happened!"

Before Skywatcher could reply, Goldenflow stalked out of the cave.

...

Wandering around in the storm, Goldenflow spotted some shelter underneath some stones. She curled up and drifted off to sleep.

She awoke in StarClan territory. *Wait, StarClan? StarClan can reach me!*

"We can." A voice came from behind Goldenflow. It was her sister.

"I told you: I would be with you wherever you go." Silvershore continued.

"It's all my fault! Redwing died because of the hawk we brought in!"

Silvershore rested her tail on Goldenflow's shoulders. "It's not your fault."

"Yes, it is!"

Silvershore sighed. "If I can't convince you, then maybe someone else will."

Goldenflow stared in disbelief at the cat that appeared in front of her.

"Redwing!"

"My death wasn't your fault. StarClan told me to fight the fox."

Goldenflow turned towards Silvershore. "So it's your fault." She snarled.

"We didn't want to tell her that she was going to join us. Would you

want to know when you would die?"

Goldenflow shook her head knowing that her sister had won the argument.

StarClan started to fade around her.

"Goodbye, Goldenflow. May we meet again." Two voices echoed towards her.

...

Goldenflow woke up to a warm pelt comforting her. It was Fox!

"Um, Fox? What are you doing here?"

Fox lifted his head. "I wanted to make sure you were ok."

"Did Skywatcher order you to do this?"

"No. I came after you myself."

"That's nice of you. Let's stay here a little longer."

The twosome cuddled up for StarClan knows how long...

# 🤍Chapter 16🤍

Goldenflow laid next to Fox, enjoying the quiet. She noticed that the rain had stopped since she fell asleep. She yawned, slowly standing up, waking Fox up in the process.

"Is it morning already?" he mumbled.

"No, it's nighttime stupid furball," Goldenflow retorted, looking at the stars in the sky.

At first, Goldenflow thought nothing was wrong, but then the previous events rushed into her mind. Her best friend dying, Skywatcher being a fox-heart, and how everything went wrong. But now that she thinks about it, Fox was the one that did this. He was the one who killed the hawk. And she decided to help him. *What kind of friend am I?*

"Earth to Golden That Flows Through The stream!" Fox's voice startled her.

"Huh?"

Fox lashed his tail impatiently. "I want to tell you something."

"What?"

Fox sighed. "Don't take this the wrong way, but ever since I saw you, I knew you were right."

Goldenflow blinked. "What do you mean?"

"What I'm saying is that would you like to be my mate?"

Goldenflow felt an imaginary arrow pierce her heart. She was truely a medicine cat at heart. How could she take a mate? But she felt the same way about Fox: he was a truly worthy mate. *Oh, StarClan, please forgive me.*

"Yes."

Fox blinked with happiness. "Really? You have no idea how happy I feel right now!"

Goldenflow twitched her whiskers in amusement. "I think I do."

Fox suddenly turned serious. "You know that we have to go back to the Tribe right?"

Goldenflow sighed. "Yes, I know."

"Are we going right now?"

"Yes. I'm not afraid of Skywatcher." Goldenflow replied.

"Well, let's go then."

...

The Tribe cats stared in surprise as Goldenflow trotted into the cave.

"Golden That Flows Through The stream! I thought you had left forever!" Rain exclaimed happily.

"No, I'm back. And please call me Goldenflow."

Rain nodded. "Alright, *Goldenflow."*

"Fox! Where have you been?" a terribly familiar voice snapped.

Fox hung his head. "I went to comfort Goldenflow."

Skywatcher's eyes flashed. "And why?"

Fox lifted his head to stare into the Healer's eyes. "Because I love her."

Skywatcher was speachless. Finally, he managed to say, "What? How could you love a *Clan* cat?"

"Do you have a *problem* with that? Because if you do, then you can

talk to *me!"* Fox snarled.

"I don't have time for this. I have news to announce." Skywatcher growled.

Fox stepped back and put his tail on Goldenflow's shoulder protectively.

"Tribe of Clear Skies! I'm afraid that I have grave news." Skywatcher yowled.

The Tribe cats started murmuring to one another anxiously.

"I'm afraid the darkness has gotten to the holy flower already. We are too late." Skywatcher finished.

Cats started panicking. Fox turned to her with a scared look.

"Now nothing can save us."

# 🤍Chapter 17🤍

Goldenflow woke up in StarClan that night. *I'll be here soon enough,* she thought. *There's no Hope left.*

"Yes, there is."

Goldenflow whipped around. It was Silvershore again.

"What do you mean?" Goldenflow was getting tired of StarClan's secrets.

"StarClan has learned some new information. The darkness is coming from a cave not far from the Tribe. You must go there. StarClan has a plan to end the darkness forever."

"Wait, what? What cave?"

"StarClan will light your path."

...

Goldenflow opened her eyes to see it wasn't dawn yet. It was still dark outside. Goldenflow's eyes widened when she saw some glittery water leading outside. *Wait, that's not ordinary water! That's the water from the Moonpool back home! It's starlight! This is a trail from StarClan!*

Goldenflow quietly stalked outside. The chilly breeze ruffled her fur. She felt a pelt flank her. But there was no cat there. *Must've imagined it.*

She kept following the starlight trail until she reached a dark cave.

*This must be it. Oh StarClan, whatever your plan is, I hope it works.*

Goldenflow crouched down, and slowly entered the cave. She could have never prepared herself for what came next.

Her sister and Dawnlight were there, in the cave, talking with an unseen being. As Goldenflow came closer, Silvershore's tail twitched. *She knew I was coming! She probably left that trail!*

"Please get rid of the darkness!" Dawnlight begged. "It would mess up the future!"

**"No."** A snarl came from all around them. Goldenflow didn't dare talk or she would be discovered.

**"Fate will come. I might have abandoned StarClan for my kind, but I still predict what awaits."**

"Traitor! Why did you leave us when we needed you most?" Silvershore growled.

A deep chuckle came from the thing. It wasn't a cat, that's for sure. The sound sounds familiar but Goldenflow couldn't place it.

**"Weakness, my friend. I waited a long time to take that advantage. And now, I have all your secrets. And of course, I spilled them all to that loner all those seasons ago."**

"Double traitor! I don't know who that loner is, but he must have been trouble." Dawnlight stated.

**"Oh, he was. He wanted to destroy the Clans as much as I did. But I had to wait. I needed your trust, and every other cat's trust to make my plan work. And you even gave me the power to foresee the future! Now my plan will be complete. Now, does StarClan surrender? Because I could kill them a second time if you want."**

Goldenflow heard Silvershore's growl and Dawnlight's snarl. But they didn't answer. Goldenflow felt herself trembling. If StarClan surrenders, will it be the end of the Clans and the Tribe?

# 🤍Chapter 18🤍

The silence went on for a while. *Was StarClan actually considering surrendering?*

"No. StarClan will not surrender. We will stand and fight." Silvershore declared.

**"Very well, you will fight me. If you win, all darkness shall be removed and I shall rest forever. If I win, fate will settle on the Clans."**

Goldenflow heard loud trampling come from one of the other caverns. She was just about to warn her sister and Dawnlight when a huge female badger came into the small cave. *A badger!? How in StarClan's name would two cats fight off that?*

"Let the fight begin!" the badger roared. Goldenflow was shocked. That was the thing speaking all this time? Badgers couldn't talk! Something was amiss here.

Silvershore began batting the badger's face with unsheathed claws. Meanwhile, Dawnlight struck it from the back. Clever... Dawnlight was always the smart one compared to her brother.

"You will pay for your crimes, Midnight!" Silvershore yowled.

*Midnight? The badger had a name? What is going on here!?*

Midnight lunged at Silvershore, knocking her over. Silvershore shrieked with fury.

*Oh, no... not my sister! She can't die again! Medicine cat or not, I'm going in!*

With a battle cry that she had learned from her old friend Saptail, Goldenflow jumped on top of the badger. Midnight was confused for a second but still kept her focus on Silvershore. Suddenly, Dawnlight leaped at Midnight's face just before Midnight knocked

her down. Goldenflow glanced at Silvershore. She was still stunned by the hard blow. *Well, I guess it's my call.* Goldenflow thought.

Dawnlight let out a terrified wail as Midnight lifted her huge claws to finish her. Just before Goldenflow could move, a flash of silver passed right in front of Dawnlight.

"No!" Goldenflow yowled as Midnight's claws ripped open her sister's throat. Silvershore choked on her own blood as she landed. Midnight looked at her victoriously for a few moments. To Goldenflow's amazement, while the badger was distracted, Dawnlight lunged up and clawed at Midnight's eyes. The badger shrieked in pain and fury.

"I can't see! I can't see!" she roared as she fell to the ground.

Dawnlight looked at Goldenflow and blinked.

"Would you like to do the honors?"

Goldenflow nodded. She felt no pity towards this creature.

She raised her paws, and claws unsheathed, raked them down Midnight's throat. Midnight screeched in agony before lying still.

To Goldenflow's shock, sunlight immediately shone through the - once dark cave - turning it golden. Dawnlight looked up.

"The darkness has gone!" she echoed. She turned towards Goldenflow.

"Without your help, StarClan would have lost. We will always be greatful. But victory comes with a price." Dawnlight gestured sadly to Silvershore's dead body.

"Silvershore! She'll never be able to visit me again! Where is she now?" Goldenflow wailed.

Dawnlight twitched her whiskers. "StarClan does not know. But wherever she is, I'm sure she's safe and has eternal rest. She has earned it well. Don't be sad, because one day you'll get to see her again. I promise."

Goldenflow sighed. "It's been a long day. I think I need rest. My belly has not been the best lately."

Dawnlight chuckled. "From what I learned from you is that you're expecting kits."

Goldenflow's heart stopped. "Really? Fox will sure be happy! But I'm not sure..."

Dawnlight rested her tail on Goldenflow's shoulder. "You'll be fine. Enjoy your life while you can, Goldenflow. Because you never know when it will be ended." Dawnlight faded away into StarClan once more.

Goldenflow sighed, knowing how true that statement was.

# 🤍Epilogue🤍

"Goldenflow! Aren't you excited?" Fox asked.

Goldenflow nodded in responce. It's been eight moons since she had fought Midnight the badger. She decided not to tell the Tribe about it and made up an excuse of wanting to sleep under the stars instead. Her two she-kits, one golden like her with brown eyes, and the other with Fox's colored pelt and blue eyes, were finally old enough to become to-bes. Goldenflow decided to name the golden one Breeze Caught In Storm, and the other one Hunter That Waits For Prey.

"Tribe of Clear Skies! These kits are now ready to become to-bes." Skywatcher turned his head towards Breeze.

"You will now be in training to become a cave guard. Snow will be your trainer."

Skywatcher looked at Hunter.

"You will be in training to become a prey-hunter. Eagle will be your trainer. "

The Tribe cheered.

"Fox?" Goldenflow asked. Fox looked at her. "What?"

"I'm not going back to my duties."

"What? Why?"

"Because I'm going to be Skywatcher's apprentice."